

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 11394 01 OF 02 140442Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
-----000736 140459Z /12
R 131258Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 521

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 11394

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, NI
SUBJECT: INSPECTION REPORT

REF: STATE 230970

1.) MISSING MEMORANDUM INADVERTENTLY CARRIED BACK TO LAGOS BY
AMBASSADOR. IT IS BEING POUCHED TO YOU. REQUESTED TEXT FOLLOWS:

2.) 4.2-1. THE EMBASSY WILL IMPLEMENT THIS RECOMMENDATION AS
SOON AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. WHILE THE SECTION HAS DONE A SUB-
STANTIAL AMOUNT OF ANALZICAL ECONOMIC REPORTING, IT WILL ENDEAVOR
TO DO MORE. THE PRINCIPAL CONSTRAINT HERE HAS BEEN THE NUMBER AND
TECHNICAL BACKGROUND OF OFFICERS IN THE SECTION. THE SECTION IS
ONLY HALF STAFFED AT PRESENT AND EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO
INCREASE THE PROPORTION OF ANALYTICAL REPORTING IN RELATION TO
OTHER HEAVY WORKLOADS ONCE FULL STAFFING IS ACHIEVED AT THE END
OF SEPTEMBER. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DO THIS, HOWEVER, IN VIEW
OF THE INSPECTORS' DISAGREEMETP WITH OUR LONG-STANDING REQUEST
FOR AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER IN THE SECTION.
THE EMBASSY WILL SEEK TO INFLUENCE DG/PER IN AN EFFORT
TO STRENGTHEN STAFF CAPABILITY TO HANDLE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS.
ONLY ONE OF OUR PRESENTLY ASSIGNED OFFICERS WILL BE REPLACED
WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR, HOWEVER.

3.) 4.2-2. THE EMBASSY AGREES ON THE NEED FOR AN ACROSS-THE-
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 11394 01 OF 02 140442Z

BOARD DEPUTY POSITION IN THE SECTION AND EXPECTS THIS PRACTICE
TO BE FOLLOWED AFTER THE NEX ECONOMIC/COMMERICAL COUNSELOR
ARRIVES IN MID-SEPTEMBER. ALTHOUGH EVERY OFFICER IN THE SECTION
IS DOING COMMERCIAL WORK (AS WELL AS ECONOMIC) IN HIS OWN SECTOR
OF SPECIALIZATION, THE DEPUTY WILL BE GIVEN THE TITLE OF
COMMERJKIAL ATTACHE AT THAT TIME.

4.) 4.2-3. THE EMBASSY INTENDS TO COMPLY WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION PROVIDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE INSPECTORS' RECOMMENDATION 6.2B-2 TO ELIMINATE THE PIT POSITION WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO TAKE CARE OF VISITORS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE MORE EFFICIENT TO SHIFT THE CARE OF VISITORS TO THE INCUMBENT OF THAT POSITION. IN ANY EVENT, HOWEVER, THE INSPECTORS APPEAR TO HAVE OBTAINED ERRONEOUS IMPRESSIONS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN FOR WHOM THE ECONOMIC SECTION ARRANGES HOTEL RESERVATIONS. THE GREAT BULK OF VISITORS DEALT WITH BY THE SECTION HAVE BEEN OFFICIAL VISITORS, WITH PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN BEING ASSISTED ONLY IN RARE INSTANCES. WE PROVIDED SUCH ASSISTANCE TO MR. PERCY SUTTON ON AUGUST 13, FOR EXAMPLE, PURSUANT TO THE REQUEST OF A CONGRESSMAN AND A DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

5.) 4.2-4. THE EMBASSY CONCURS WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION. AS THE INSPECTORS POINT OUT, THE EMBASSY WAS SEEKING THIS CLARIFICATION EVEN BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE INSPECTORS.

6.) 4.2-5. BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE VISIT OF THE INSPECTORS, THE EMBASSY HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT ANY SUPPORT OF AID FUNCTIONS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION AND THAT A FULL-TIME POPULATION OFFICER SHOULD NOT BE ASSIGNED HERE.

7.) 4.2-6. THIS ISSUE WILL NOT RISE AGAIN FOR ANOTHER TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 11394 01 OF 02 140442Z

YEARS BUT THE EMBASSY THOROUGHLY AGREES WITH THE OBJECTIVE STATED BY THE INSPECTORS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT IT GAVE VERY CAREFUL THOUGHT IN MID-1977 TO THE STAFFING PATTERN CHANGEOVER WHICH WOULD OCCUR IN MID-1978. AT THAT TIME, FOUR OFFICERS AND ONE SECRETARY IN THE ECONOMIC SECTION ASKED TO EXTEND THEIR TOURS OF DUTY TO MID-1978. A MULTIPLE REQUEST OF THIS TYPE WAS PREVIOUSLY UNHEARD OF IN LAGOS. THE EMBASSY DECIDED TO APPROVE THESE REQUESTS BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUALLY STRONG CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THESE EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL COULD MAKE IN THEIR "EXTRA YEAR." THIS WAS A CAREFULLY WEIGHED TRADE-OFF. WE BELIEVED IN MID-1977, MOREOVER, THAT AN FSO OR AID OFFICER REPLACEMENT WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO US FOR 1977-79 WHO WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONTINUITY.

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 11394 02 OF 02 160424Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 11394

8.) 6.2H-1. THE EMBASSY HAS DETERMINED THAT 24 HOUR GUARD SERVICE IS REQUIRED IN LAGOS. DURING THE PAST FIVE MONTHS, THE INCIDENCE OF BURGLARIES IN THE CITY HAS INCREASED AND THERE HAVE BEEN SEVEN ATTEMPTS TO BURGLARIZE EMBASSY RESIDENCES, OF WHICH FIVE WERE SUCCESSFUL. IN ADDITION, ONE VEHICLE WAS STOLEN FROM A RESIDENCE GARAGE. A RECENT CHANGE IN THE PATTERN OF HOUSEBREAKING IS THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ARMED BURGLARS OPERATING IN GROUPS OF 4-10 WHO STRIKE AT ANY TIME OF THE DAY AND SEEMINGLY WITHOUT FEAR OF REPRISAL FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EMBASSY'S GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND SHORT-TERM LEASED HOUSING IS SUCH THAT PHYSICAL SECURITY IS POOR AND WOULD MAKE PROPER PHYSICAL SECURITY EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE. ALTHOUGH ALARMS AND GRILLS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED WHERE FEASIBLE, THIS DOES NOT ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR A GUARD FORCE. DISCUSSION WITH THE COMMISSIONAIRE ORGANIZATION HAS REVEALED THAT IT IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE NEARLY ENOUGH MANPOWER TO SUPPLANT THE OTHER GUARDS. MOREOVER THE POST IS NOT CONVINCED THAT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COMMISSIONAIRES IS SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER THAN THAT OF THE GUARDS. (ON AUGUST 15, FOR EXAMPLE, THE COMMISSIONAIRES WERE NOT AWARE OF THE BURGLARIZATION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE EVEN THOUGH THE BURGLARS CUT THROUGH THE FENCE FIFTEEN YARDS FROM THEIR GUARD POST*) THE POST HAS RECENTLY INTRODUCED SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS OWN GUARD PROGRAM, HOWEVER, INCLUDING MORE ADEQUATE WAGES AND THE USE OF A CHECKLIST IN WHICH THE AMERICAN PROVIDES FEEDBACK

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 11394 02 OF 02 160424Z

ON THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS GUARDS. IN ADDITION THE EMBASSY IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH TWO CONTRACTORS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY CAN PROVIDE EFFICIENT SERVICE OF THE TYPE DESIRED. WE EXPECT TO UTILIZE THEIR SERVICES SOON ON A TRIAL-RUN BASIS.

9.) 6.2H-2. ACTION COMPLETED. A TECHNICAL SECURITY OFFICER ON APRIL 24-26 CONDUCTED AN INSPECTION AND SWEEP OF EMBASSY LAGOS (EXECUTIVE SUITE AND DAO OFFICES). RESULTS WERE NEGATIVE.

10.) 6.2H-3. ACTION COMPLETED. THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO LAGOS ON MARCH 28-APRIL 1 PROVIDED THE ENTREE TO THE NIGERIAN SECURITY OFFICE BY THE RSO. THE RSO NOW HAS AN INFORMAL BUT WORKABLE ARRANGEMENT WITH THAT ORGANIZATION IN THE CONDUCT OF HIS WORK.

11.) 6.2H-4. THE EMBASSY ISSUED A STRICT DIRECTIVE TO ALL MISSION PERSONNEL ON THIS SUBJECT ON AUGUST 18, 1978. VIOLATIONS ARE TO BE REPORTED TO THE DCM.

12.) 6.2H-5. INSTRUCTIONS OF THIS NATURE WERKILAST ISSUED ON JANUARY 30, 1978. NEW AND MORE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, BY WHICH TIME ALL REPLACEMENTS SHOULD BE ON BOARD.

13.) 6.2H-6. THE EMBASSY IS ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE IN THE COMPLETE REVISION OF THE E&E PLAN WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN PROCESS.

14.) 9.2A-1. THE EMBASSY DISAGREES WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION. THE REPORTING THAT HAS COME FROM THE AIR ATTACHE HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY IN QUANTITY, QUALITY AND IMPORTANCE IN RECENT MONTHS AND HAS GONE WELL BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE NIGERIAN AIR FORCE. BOTH THE DATT AND THE AIRA HAVE ENJOYED MUCH FREER ACCESS TO NIGERIAN MILITARY OFFICERS THAN WAS THE CASE PREVIOUSLY, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 11394 02 OF 02 160424Z

MUCH OF THEIR IMPROVED OUTPUT CAN BE DIRECTLY CREDITED TO THE TWO OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO EXPAND AND CAPITALIZE ON THEIR CONTACTS. THIS PROCESS, ESPECIALLY IN NIGERIA, TAKES A GOOD DEAL OF TIME BUT THE BENEFITS ARE PROVING WORTHWHILE, NOT LEAST IN TERMS OF THE GOODWILL GENERATED AMONG OFFICERS WHO COMMAND MUCH INFLUENCE IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. WHEN CIVILIAN RULE RESUMES IN 1979, THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE SHOULD REMAIN IMPORTANT TO EMBASSY REPORTING. A NIGERIAN MILITARY NOT IN POWER IS GOING TO BE A FAR LESS VISIBLE, BUT POLITICALLY HIGHLY IMPORTANT, INSTITUTION. THERE IS A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT A MILITARY GOVERNMENT WILL BE RE-ESTABLISHED AFTER A YEAR OR TWO. SOUNDINGS OF MILITARY OPINIONS AND INTENTIONS, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONAL RELATIONS, WILL BE FUNCTIONS OF TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO ENTRUST TO A SINGLE MAN. EXCEPT FOR SOUTH AFRICA, THE NIGERIAN MILITARY IS THE

LARGEST AND MOST POWERFUL ARMED FORCE IN AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SHAHARA. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE THEREFORE HAS SUBSTANTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN ADDITION TO REPORTING WHICH IS OF POLITICAL INTEREST TO THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT. EASUM

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